

Approved

The Compass School
August 24, 2015 Meeting of the School Council
Minutes

Meeting Location: The Compass School,
537 Old North Road, Kingston, RI 02881

Date and Time of Meeting: August 24, 2015 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Susannah Strong (SS), Polly Cuddy (PC),
Vazquez (HV), Marisa Gallagher (MG),
Fritz Lanz, (FL), Rachel Axelson (RA),
Nicole Gardner (NG)

Others Present: Brandee Lapisky (BL),
Amy Henderson (AH),
Tom Emrich (TE),

Members Absent: Paul Boisvert (PB)

Presiding Officer: SS

1. Call to Order: Susannah Strong, Council President, calls the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

2. Roll Call

3. Adoption of agenda

FL motions to adopt agenda.

RA seconds.

Discussion: None.

Vote to approve:

In favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

4. Discussion/vote to approve minutes from July 8, 2015 Council Meeting

HV motions to approve the July 8, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes.

NG seconds.

Discussion: None.

Vote to approve July 8, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes:

In favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

5. Accept Director's Report

HV motions to approve the director's report.

RA seconds.

Discussion: Brandee reviewed decisions with transportation based on survey with families and meetings with KHA.

Vote to accept the Director's Report:

In favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

6. Discussion/update on site/facilities

Brandee signed agreement with Triumph for new modular building. The next steps are permitting and clarifying timeline for installation.

7. Discussion/acceptance of Rick Rhodes' resignation

RA motions to approve.

FL seconds.

Discussion:

Vote to approve:

In favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

8. Personnel:

· Discussion/vote to accept the Director's recommendation to appoint Arthur Smith as the Facilities Manager for 2015/2016.

HV motions to approve.

PC seconds.

Discussion:

Vote to approve:

In favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

· Discussion/vote to accept the Director's recommendation to appoint Abby Colby Cooper as the Development Director for 2015/2016

RA motions to approve.

MR seconds.

Discussion:

Vote to approve:

7 In favor: 0 Opposed: 0 Abstain:

Motion passes.

9. Change of Council Meeting Schedule:

· Discussion to establish and new day and time for monthly Council Meetings. Council Meeting date to the Second Tuesday of the month as the regular meeting day for Council Meetings. Next meeting will be Tuesday September 8, 2015 at 6:00 at The Compass School.

10. Public Comment

None.

11. Adjourn 7:40

The public is welcome to any meeting of the School Council or its subcommittees. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) or any other accommodations are needed to ensure equal participation, please contact Julie Wynsen at (401)7888322 at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting.

Any changes in the agenda will be posted on The Compass School’s website and place of business, and will be electronically filed with the secretary of state at least forty eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

Compass School Director’s Report

Provided By: Brandee Lapisky, M.Ed.

Submitted on: August 18, 2015

Council meeting date: August 24, 2015

Enrollment: The enrollment tallies below are updated as of 8/20/15.

Step Levels	Grade	Enrollment (Actual by grade)	Enrollment (Actual by step)
Explorers	K	17	34
	1	17	
Adventurers	2	19	19
Discoverers	3	19	38

	4	19	
Investigators	5	18	38
	6	20	
Navigators	7	18	36
	8	18	
Total Enrollment	K-8	165	165

Follow Up from 7/8/15 Council Meeting: Transportation

- *Improving the transportation experience for Compass students:*

2014-15 brought various challenges for Compass students and their families as transportation shifted from door-to-door service provided by the districts to depot stops provided by Ocean State transport. To learn more about the student/family experience, Brandee initiated the following information-gathering steps:

- 7/27: Newsletter to families including Transportation Survey Monkey
- 7/30: Meeting with families re: transportation data
- 7/31: Newsletter to families including transportation survey results release
- 8/12: Meeting with representatives from Kingston Hill Academy and Ocean State Transportation
- 8/20: Newsletter to families including transportation action steps including:
 - Process for route suggestions
 - Delay notification system
 - Commitment to communications re: school/family concerns

- *Transportation for Students Residing in East Greenwich:*

Historically, The Compass School has only transported students who are residents of Washington County. There was a recent request for to transport students from East Greenwich. Based on my information gathering, my recommendation is that Compass *maintain its current/historical policy to only transport residents of Washington County*. This recommendation is based on the following details:

- Though there are some seats available on the current busses, there is insufficient space to offer space to all KHA and Compass families that are not currently transported. Though there are only 4 Compass families, there are 26 KHA families.
- Our partner, Kingston Hill, is opposed to transporting anyone outside of Washington County. We have a written agreement in place with them that

indicates that "any changes must be mutually agreed upon". Kingston Hill Academy does not agree to this change.

- Our option then would be to pursue a separate bus to specifically transport these 4 families. The cost of this Compass-funded bus would be \$47,700 per year.
- East Greenwich families were informed, upon enrollment, that transportation would not be provided to residents outside of Washington County.

Education Landscape in Rhode Island

- *New Commissioner:* Dr. Ken Wagner from New York began his role as Education Commissioner of RI in August.
- *Funding Commission:* RIDE has notified LEAs to expect changes in the funding formula in early Fall 2015 that will impact per pupil funding to charter schools for the following fiscal year. The goal of the Funding Commission is to create a predictable system for charters and districts.
- *School Building Authority:* Governor Raimondo lifted the moratorium on state assistance for school building capital improvements. She launched a School Building Authority in August. The School Building Authority has \$20 million in its Capital Fund available in 2015-2016 to school districts and charter public schools for school repair and renovation projects.

RI League of Charter Schools

- 7/17: Brandee met with Tim Groves, the new Director of the RI League of Charter Schools at Compass.
- 8/11: Hilary Downes-Fortune attended the RI League of Charter Schools' Director's Retreat as the Compass representative.
- 8/18: Brandee attended the monthly meeting with RIDE and RI charter school leaders.
- Future meeting: Tim Groves has offered to attend a Compass Council meeting in September or October to share information about the support the League can provide.

District Collaboration

- 7/31: Brandee met with Bob Jones, NK school committee member, regarding possible collaboration between Compass and the North Kingstown School Department (NKSD). We identified the following possibilities:
 - NKSD will invite Compass to present to early learning programs in NK.
 - Compass will invite NKSD (and all sending districts) to present to 8th graders and their families about the opportunities at NKHS.
 - NKSD and Compass will share learning re: Chromebooks. Note that Compass teacher Heidi Vasquez will serve as a FUSE fellow for NKSD this year.
- 8/5: Bob Jones initiated communication between Superintendent Auger and Brandee. We intend to meet in September to discuss further collaboration possibilities.

Technology

- *Technology Leader:* The strategic plan called for the identification of a technology leader, however the approved 2015-16 budget did not allow for salary provisions to support this position. As a result, Brandee will serve as the technology leader for the 2015-16 school year through the following strategies:
 - modeling the use of digital tools
 - incorporating technology best practice shares in staff meetings and professional development
 - raising awareness about free professional development available to staff (i.e. the [RIDE Technology Conference](#) on 10/17 at the Convention Center)
- *Website:* Evan Lapisky, a software engineer for Farsounder Inc., is adding additional features to the Compass beta website such as the metaslider (photo slideshow). These features, along with the core of the website work prepared by Tom Emrich, will be ready for release in September.
- *PARCC Readiness:*
 - Paper Version: RIDE initially stated that all schools would be required to use the digital PARCC platform for the 2015-16 school year. Recently, they updated this guidance and indicated that the paper version would be available for one additional year. Brandee recommends that Compass utilize the paper copy for 2015-16.
 - Brandee consulted with John Anter, Compass parent and IT Director at the Met School re: Compass' transition to the digital platform. The Met successfully made the transition last year. In order to prepare the technology infrastructure, John recommends that Compass budget at least 40 tech hours dedicated specifically to the PARCC project in year 1 of the transition. 40 hours @ \$100/hour = \$4,000 minimum for the online PARCC project. This will be something to prepare for in the 2016-17 budget.

Staffing

Two search committees convened in July to meet with candidates for the Development Director and Facilities Manager positions. Their recommendations are below:

Development Director:

- The search committee recommends **Abby Cooper** to the Council for hire.
- Abby comes to us with fifteen years experience working with non-profit organizations in the areas of education, healthcare, arts and human services. She has been successful in garnering diversified support for campaigns including:
 - The Rhode Island Community Food Bank's \$8 million capital campaign (including a \$500,000 Kresge Foundation challenge grant)
 - The Community College of RI's \$1.5 million Newport expansion campaign

- \$200,000 from The Champlin Foundations for Rhode Island Center Assisting those in Need's new facility upgrades as well as over \$250,000 from The Walmart Foundation for a piloted food rescue program, which has since become a model for the state.

· *Facilities Manager*

- The search committee recommends **Arthur Smith** to the Council for hire.
- Arthur comes to us with a lifetime of experience fixing anything that needs attention from houses, to boats, to engines both big and small. Some of his achievements are listed below:
- Arthur's home and property are a showcase of his craft. He recently built a beautiful deck, constructed his family's greenhouse, and designed and installed an expansive underground irrigation system for his home garden. He is an organic gardener.

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